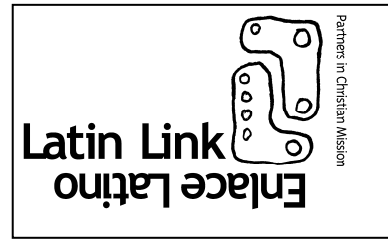


# Stewarts Update August 2007



## THIS ISSUE:

1. Celebration
2. Step team results
3. Children's library success stories
4. Frustration with finance!
5. The other routine bits

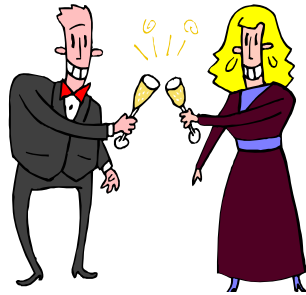
## THERE ARE PHOTOS WITH THIS NEWSLETTER.

If you don't find them attached separately in the e-mail, please get in touch with us!

## CELEBRATION

### 13 - not unlucky for us!

We are very happy to say that we celebrated 13 years of marriage earlier this month. As tends to be the way with us, we were not able to celebrate on the actual day (Judith was out of town for the week on Step business) but we set aside a day later in the month to properly celebrate with a special lunch out. We give thanks to God for a great marriage and the support that we have from each other in our work and ministry here in Brazil.



## STEP TEAM RESULTS

In our last newsletter we were hoping to receive a Step team to go and do some building work and give general spiritual support and

encouragement of some missionaries in the interior for our state of Pernambuco. Well, praise God for the huge success of the team of 9 bright enthusiastic young people from the UK who came and worked hard in all areas to make the experience very

memorable for all the Brazilians that they worked alongside. Highlights included:

- A wonderful service of thanksgiving to inaugurate the three new chalets (accommodation) at a missions centre in a small rural hamlet. They were painted mustard, blue and pink! (Brazil is certainly a colourful place)
- Pamela, one of Judith's Brazilian students (English for teens), being grafted into the team for 3 weeks, and really growing spiritually because of it.

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY SUCCESS STORIES 15 minutes of pure silent bliss!



We just can't express our joy at the success of the children's library! Every month we learn something new about how to encourage these children more. Especially over the last 2 months we have seen kids fully moulding into the pattern of the 15 minutes of silence which is inserted into the 2-hour session. Getting our little ones to be silent and just read for 15 minutes (especially when half of them cannot yet read!) has been challenging to say the least. But thanks to a great scheme inspired by the generosity of Ballylinney Church we now award points to children who have maintained absolute silence and upon reaching 50 points they get a beautiful children's Bible or hymnbook! We can see a tangible difference in their reading skills and children actually ensconced on the beanbags becoming fully absorbed in their books. So much so that sometimes instead of ending the silence after 15 minutes we allow it to slip into 20 minutes and only a few of them

start to get fidgety! See photo attached of these little treasures! And a final note – last year I saw that some children in the UK gave Christmas gifts of book money to children in our library. If this idea sparks any ideas out there for this Christmas, we'd love to invest in a new set of books at the end of the year!

## FRUSTRATION WITH FINANCE

Yes, missionaries have their fair share of frustration as well, and Judith's recently acquired role of church treasurer has brought quite a bit of angst. Sadly she is discovering a significant value of 'hidden' debt that has never been made known to members. Please pray for her as she tries to pull the church into better financial practices and managing the relationships involved with grace and love (when really it's more natural to feel anger and disappointment).



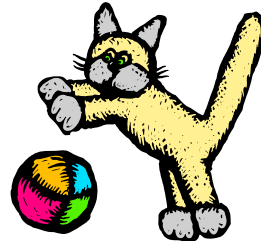
## OTHER ROUTINE BITS

This is the bit that we almost dread writing about as it does come across as so routine and boring – our teaching roles. But for those of you who do follow this part, we just want to briefly report that all is going really well. Adrian loves teaching biblical hermeneutics (how to interpret the Bible), Eschatology (the study of what the Bible says about what will happen at the end of the world) and Missions. Judith is teaching Christian Ethics. Adult Sunday School classes – going well with the new trainee teachers, and proving a challenge to

teach a 4 month series based on John Stott's wonderful book – *The Cross of Christ*. We would appreciate prayer for this as people are being really challenged to understand their salvation better and respond to God accordingly.

Ladies Exercise classes and English for Teens also going really well.

## WARNING - NON CAT-LOVERS CAN IGNORE THE FOLLOWING BIT!!!



It remains a delight to come home from a hard evening of teaching and get a lovely warm hug from Felix Agrippa! He is playful, funny and is part of the neighbourhood watch team (the only member of the team actually). See photo for explanation.

And finally, talking of photos – amongst the attached is one of our new car. We can hardly express what a wonderful blessing this has been to us already. After quite a few months of breakdowns it is such bliss to have an utterly reliable set of wheels – we are so dependent on it for our ministry here. So thanks again to all our very generous supporters for helping to make that happen.

## So here's a summary of our thanks and requests

- Thanks for successes in various areas of ministry – teaching, the library, and adult Sunday School.
- Thanks for our strong marriage and a wonderful set of supporters in the UK
- Thanks for the work of the Step team and pray that the communities they touched will continue to be affected by the time they spent there.
- Pray for the church in the northeast in Brazil. Adrian hears from his students about so much crazy theology being preached, especially in small churches. Pray that he can continue to put his students firmly on the right doctrinal tracks!
- Pray that Judith will be patient with the finances at the church and that the church will take responsibility for the situation and start reining things back in.
- Pray for the routine of this term – we are out working most nights – pray that we can stay enthusiastic and inspired.